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REMARKS

This communication is in response to the final Office Action mailed on January 26, 2004. The Office Action reports that claims 1-11, 15, 17-20, 32 and 34-43 are allowed, while claim 33 has been rejected as being anticipated by Minster (U.S. Pat. 5,369,902).

This communication also follows a telephone conference with Examiner Davis on March 5, 2004. The undersigned respectfully thanks Examiner Davis for her time and consideration in the interview.

In the interview, the undersigned explained how the plant stake of Minister does not meet the recited claim language, in particular, the sign system of the recited reference does not have a neck "...formed for guiding the plant information label through the plant stake during tilting of the plant information label" as presently recited. In the interview, Examiner Davis acknowledged what was meant by the cited language and proposed clarifying this language to recite that first and second positions of the plant information label are achieved through tilting. Accordingly, with this amendment, applicant has clarified that the plant information label can be tilted from at least a first position to a second position while on the neck of the plant stake.

Claim 17 has been amended to remove "d" with respect to the diameter of the hole, which is believed to improve understanding of the claim.

In view of the foregoing, applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of the application as amended. Favorable action upon claim 33 is respectfully requested.

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The Director is authorized to charge any fee deficiency required by this paper or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 23-1123.

Respectfully submitted,

WESTMAN, CHAMPLIN & KELLY, P.A.

By: 

Steven M. Koehler, Reg. No. 36,188
Suite 1600 - International Centre
900 Second Avenue South
Minneapolis, Minnesota 55402-3319
Phone: (612) 334-3222 Fax: (612) 339-3312

SMK:jmb